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The Urban District of Litherland

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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1955

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITHERLAND

YEAR 1955

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR R. F. MITCHELL, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR W. WALL, J.P., up to August, 1955.
COUNCILLOR C. J. SMITH from 31st October, 1955.

Deputy Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR Mrs. E. FORRESTER.

Health Committee:

C. AMBROSE	W. T. GRIFFITH
Mrs. E. FORRESTER	C. E. RAE
D. U. JONES	C. ROBERTS
C. J. SMITH	
R. F. MITCHELL, J.P.	W. WALL, J.P.
Ex Officio	E. F. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health:

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer of Health:

R. E. JONES, M.B., Ch.B.
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. HARRISON, F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A., (Chief)

G. DRAYCOTT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
from 8th February, 1954 to 21st December, 1955.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITHERLAND

Town Hall,
Litherland,
Liverpool, 21.
August, 1956.

To The Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Ladies/Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

I would like to comment on one or two facts which have emerged and which I think are worthy of note.

The infant mortality rate in 1955, 23 per 1,000 live births, remains fairly stationary compared with the figure of 21 for 1954. It compares satisfactorily with the National figure for England and Wales of 24.9.

There was not a single case of diphtheria notified during the year and no deaths from scarlet fever, measles or whooping cough, during 1955.

The number of new notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1955 was 31 and this shows a decrease over the previous years, 55 in 1954 and 47 in 1953. However, despite this fall in the number of new cases, there is no room for complacency.

Improved housing and the relief of overcrowding will certainly reduce the number of cases of tuberculosis in the district.

It wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Staff of the Department for their help and the members of the Health Committee for their sustained interest in the health of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	1187
Population—Census, 1951	22,197
—Estimated, Mid 1955	24,140
No. of inhabitated houses (Census, 1951)	5,858
No. of inhabitated houses on Rate Books, Dec. 1955 ...	6,553
Rateable Value	£157,756
General Rate, 1955/56	23/8d. (Ford Ward — 20/10
Sum represented by a penny rate	£618

There is no special report to make on the influence of any particular occupation on public health.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—There are no separate figures at the Labour Exchange as to the extent of the unemployment in the district.

BIRTHS.

The number of children born in the district during 1955 was 386; 183 males and 203 females. This gives a crude Birth Rate of 16.0, adjusted 14.9 per 1,000 of estimated population.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during the year 1955 was 239; 139 males and 100 females. This gives a crude Death Rate of 9.9; adjusted 13.3. 109 deaths of Litherland residents occurred outside the district.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

During the year 9 children died who, at the time of their death, had not reached the age of one year, 6 of these died in the first 4 weeks of life.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

During the year, there were no deaths from Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles, or from Meningococcal infection.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Home population—Registrar General's estimate, mid 1955, 24,140

Comparability factors.

Births ... 0.93 Deaths ... 1.34

Live Births—

		M.	F.
Total	...	183	203
Legitimate	...	182	198
Illegitimate	...	1	5

Still Births—

		M.	F.
Total	...	3	10
Legitimate	...	3	9
Illegitimate	...	—	1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

		M.	F.
Total	...	4	5
Legitimate	...	4	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age—

		M.	F.
Total	...	2	4
Legitimate	...	2	4
Illegitimate	...	—	—

LITHERLAND U.D.C.

		Live Births. No, registered.	Live Births. Rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths (all causes). No. registered.	Deaths (all causes). Rate per 1,000 population.	Stillbirths. No. registered.	Stillbirths. Rate per 1,000 total births.	Maternal Mortality. No. of deaths registered.	Maternal Mortality. Rate per 1,000 total births.	Infant Mortality. Total. No. of deaths registered.	Infant Mortality. Total. Rate per 1,000 live births.	Infant Mortality. Neo-Natal. No. of deaths registered.	Infant Mortality. Neo-Natal. Rate per 1,000 live births.
Year	1955	386	16.0	239	9.9	13	33	Nil	Nil	9	23	6	16
,,	1954	432	18.3	227	9.6	18	40	1	2.22	9	21	5	12
,,	1953	403	17.9	194	8.6	11	27	Nil	Nil	13	32	11	27
,,	1952	381	*17.0	197	*8.8	4	10	Nil	Nil	9	24	6	16
,,	1951	395	*17.8	240	*10.8	7	17	Nil	Nil	12	30	8	20
,,	1950	421	18.4	217	9.5	10	23	Nil	Nil	8	19	3	7

*Adjusted—Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 0.93) — 16.0 per 1,000.

Death-rate (comparability factor, 1.34) — 13.3 per 1,000.

Age at date of Inoculation	20 1935	19 1936	18 1937	17 1938	16 1939	15 1940	14 1941	13 1942	12 1943	11 1944	10 1945	9 1946	8 1947	7 1948	6 1949	5 1950	4 1951	3 1952	2 1953	1 1954	Under 1 1955	Total
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	23	7	2	2	168	17	134	148	150	121	135	125	156	
1-2 years	11	6	2	5	9	14	44	118	144	115	209	189	118	262	181	108	137	98	134	152	139	
2-3 „	21	5	9	10	6	21	37	96	51	23	31	41	37	32	11	29	17	18	26	29	26	under five years 1350
3-4 „	22	9	8	1	11	23	30	86	55	10	20	15	12	7	11	17	18	6	9	16	26	
4-5 „	30	10	12	16	10	26	31	63	59	7	11	9	7	10	10	10	13	4	7	12	17	
5-6 „	47	38	29	30	31	63	59	55	35	5	19	2	5	6	12	44	38	16	41	17	35	
6-7 „	51	17	16	29	14	35	41	46	38	1	19	11	3	8	11	41	28	17	32	48	38	
7-8 „	41	24	14	13	10	11	27	22	30	7	12	2	—	2	13	30	16	4	11	30	25	5-10 years 1908
8-9 „	40	40	9	9	16	16	24	14	25	6	8	3	2	1	10	28	34	—	8	10	41	
9-10 „	36	31	18	12	12	9	19	16	24	3	7	2	—	—	12	23	27	2	2	14	20	
10-11 „	55	41	9	8	9	11	21	9	25	8	5	5	1	1	7	23	15	5	—	20	16	
11-12 „	30	37	9	3	4	6	18	8	9	2	8	4	—	—	—	13	24	1	1	3	5	10-15 years 1849
12-13 „	21	21	4	4	2	9	9	13	8	1	2	7	1	—	—	3	11	—	1	2	3	
13-14 „	11	14	7	6	1	9	8	1	8	1	1	3	—	—	—	5	8	—	—	—	6	
14-15 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	3	
15 & over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	—	—	Over 15 yrs 2500
not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	416	294	146	146	135	255	370	547	534	196	354	296	354	346	412	527	543	293	409	478	556	7607

Causes of Death in Litherland Urban District, 1955.

As supplied by General Register Office, Somerset House.

	Causes of Death.	*M.*	*F.*
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	2
2.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	9	0
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	13
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	10
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	22	4
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	2	4
20.	Other heart disease	16	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	9	2
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	8	5
24.	Bronchitis	7	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion... ...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents...	6	3
35.	Suicide	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	All causes ...	139	100

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH 1955.

Vital Statistics.

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1955. (*Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns*).

Estimated home population mid 1955 — 44,441,000

	No.	*Rate per* 1000 *home population*
Births—		
Live Births	664,711	15.0
Stillbirths	15,748	(0.35 (23.1(a)
Deaths—		
All causes	518,657	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6,493	0.15
Respiratory	5,838	0.13
Non-Respiratory	655	0.02
Cancer (all forms)	91,337	2.06
Lung and bronchus	17,271	0.39
Other cancer	74,066	1.67
Maternal Mortality (total)	437	0.64(a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	369	0.54(a)
Due to abortion	68	0.10(a)
Infant Mortality	16,515	24.9(b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,518	17.3(b)
Notifications (Corrected)—		
Typhoid fever	190	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	871	0.02
Meningococcal infection	1,126	0.03
Scarlet fever	32,591	0.73
Whooping Cough	79,092	1.78
Diphtheria	169	0.00
Erysipelas	4,612	0.10
Smallpox	nil	nil
Measles	693,741	15.61
Pneumonia	27,899	0.63
Acute Poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	3,710	0.08
Non-paralytic	2,621	0.06
Acute Encephalitis—		
Infective	148	0.00
Post-infectious	118	0.00
Dysentery	36,698	0.83
Food Poisoning	12,717	0.29
Puerperal pyrexia	12,108	0.27
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	34,209	0.77
Meninges and C.N.S.	533	0.01
Other	4,162	0.09

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
(b) Per 1,000 related births.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
East Cliff County Offices,
PRESTON.

2.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the district. Infectious diseases are admitted to Hospitals in Liverpool. General Medical and General Surgical cases are removed to the General Hospitals of Liverpool, Bootle, Waterloo and Alder Hey. Children are admitted to the Liverpool Childrens Hospital also to Alder Hey Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

This work is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the Tuberculosis Dispensary being situated at " Ellesmere," Crosby Road North, Waterloo. Home visiting of patients is carried out by nurses under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council, working from the above Dispensary.

Venereal Diseases.

Patients make their own arrangements with the Liverpool Hospitals.

Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the district, but the Liverpool and Ormskirk Hospitals are available.

Midwives.

There are two Midwives on the County Council Register and practising in the district.

Maternal Mortality.

No special arrangements have been made for the investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia; this work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

An application was received for assistance under Section 50 for the burial of an Old Age Pensioner, a spinster age 83 who died without estate. The deceased was at the time of death living with a widow also an old age pensioner, who was unable to give any assistance; no trace of any living relatives of the deceased could be found.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The Clinics are situated at 32 Linacre Road and Sefton Avenue, Litherland, and provide for:—

Health Visitors, School Nurses.

There are four nurses employed in these duties, visiting homes and schools, as well as attending the welfare clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare	Sefton Avenue, Litherland.
Ante-Natal	Sefton Avenue, Litherland.
School Clinics—	
Dental	32 Linacre Road, Litherland.
Ophthalmic	32 Linacre Road, Litherland.
Minor Ailments	32 Linacre Road, Litherland.
Orthopaedic	Sefton Avenue, Litherland.
Speech Therapy	Sefton Avenue, Litherland.

A Day Nursery was opened on April 10th, 1943, to accommodate 50 children. It has proved a success and met a wartime need of some urgency. Consequently, an extension was opened on the 21st June, 1944, for 40 children. The Nursery is open from Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children of the age of 12 months to 5 years are accepted. This nursery is administered by the County Council.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Two District Nurses visit on request of the Medical Practitioners by arrangement. This service is administered by the County Council.

Domestic Help Service.

This service is administered by the County Council, and Home Helps can be obtained in cases of illness on application to the Divisional Medical Officer or through the Litherland Health Department.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance Services are provided by the Lancashire County Council from Depots in Crosby and Ormskirk.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Sputum.—These specimens are sent direct to Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary, by Medical Practitioners.

Blood, Throat Swabs, etc—Sent direct by Medical Practitioners to Liverpool University, Bacteriological Department.

Milk—Eleven samples were submitted to Liverpool University, nine samples of Ice Cream, also seven samples of dried milk.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from the City of Liverpool; the chief source is Lake Vyrnwy in Wales. The water is excellent in quality, and there is a constant supply for all purposes. The number of houses supplied direct from the public mains is approximately 6,607. There has been no analysis during the year; this work is carried out by Liverpool Corporation. Complaints of discolouration and sediment also fresh water shrimps were reported to Liverpool Corporation and received prompt attention. The whole of the dwelling-houses are supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses.

Drainage and Sewage.

The sewage (which is dealt with on the combined system) is discharged without treatment into the Rimrose Brook sewer and finally into the River Mersey.

Rivers and Streams.

No action has been necessary to check pollution of rivers and streams and no new works have been established to cause pollution.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1955:—

No. of Houses on the Water carriage system approximately 6,597

Scavenging.

This work is carried out by the Sanitary Department, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and is working satisfactorily. Refuse is conveyed by motor vehicles to the Council's tips, situated in Beach Road, Litherland. The fleet comprises two "Paxit' and one "Low Loader."

Sanitary Inspections During 1955.

No. of premises visited	2,253
Defects or Nuisances—	
No. discovered	1,873
No. abated	1,712
No. of Notices served—	
Informal	935
Abatement	3
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Offices and Shops Act, 1950.

No statutory action has been necessary; sanitary defects, and improvements have been carried out as required, hot water supplies have been installed etc.

Camping Sites.

There were no licences issued for camping sites during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the District.

Disinfestation.

Seventy-three Council houses and one hundred and thirty four other houses were disinfested during the year.

Schools.

The Schools have been disinfected after the holidays. There was no closing of schools as a result of infection during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

There are no Common Lodging Houses; Houses let in Lodgings; Tents, Vans or Sheds, or Underground Sleeping Rooms in the district.

Offensive Trades.

There are three Tanneries and eleven Fish and Chip Potato premises in the district; these are inspected from time to time.

The Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises in the district in which Rag Flock is manufactured or sold.

Canal Boats.

There are no canal boats used as permanent residences in the district.

4.—Housing.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

There were 85 houses and 52 flats built during the year by the Council, and none by other bodies.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Two houses were demolished and twenty houses were closed, pending demolition.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON OVERCROWDING.

The housing waiting list shows there are at present 750 families living in rooms as sub-tenants, out of the above figures approximately 190 families are living in overcrowded conditions.

The number of cases relieved of overcrowding during the year including slum clearance, is 159.

There is still a serious shortage of houses for all classes of people in the district.

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Dairies and Milk Shops within the district are periodically inspected.

Eleven samples were obtained from persons selling milk within the district, and sent for Bacteriological examination.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938/1950.

12 samples of milk were submitted to the County Analyst. All samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample	*Result of Analysis*	*Action Taken*
2 Informal Milks	Freezing point indicated the presence 1.1 & 1.0% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned, further samples obtained.

The following 127 samples were obtained in Litherland by the County Sanitary Officer during the year:—
93 Milk; 4 Flour confectionery; 1 Cayenne pepper; 2 Cinnomon, ground; 1 Cloves, ground; 2 Nutmeg, ground; 1 Cumberland sausages; 2 Beef sausages; 1 Arrowroot; 1 Desiccated coconut; 3 Barley; 1 Cheese; 1 Lentils; 1 Sago; 1 Tapioca; 1 Custard powder; 1 Rice; 1 Flour; 1 Sausages, canned; 1 Pork sausages; 1 Dripping; 1 Lard; 1 Cooking fat; 1 Table salt; 1 Pepper, white; 1 Ground mixed spice; and 1 Ground Ginger.

All above samples were reported Genuine by the County Analyst with the exception of the following:—

Sample	*Result of Analysis*	*Action Taken*
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 1.6% fat	Same vendor
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 13.3% fat	Vendor notified
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 3.3% fat	Vendor notified

Meat and Other Foods.

The food exposed for sale or prepared in the district has been examined from time to time. The premises and shops have been kept in a cleanly state.

Bakehouses.

There are twelve bakers and confectioners in the district; these are in a sanitary condition, clean and well kept; alterations and repairs have been carried out during the year.

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected).

1. *Local Authority* Litherland, Liverpool, 21, *Year* 1955.
2. *Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.*

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1

3. *Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents.*

†Total Outbreaks Nil Total Cases Nil

Outbreaks due to:—

(a) Chemical Poisons Nil (d) C.1. botulinum Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms Nil (e) Other Bacteria Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin) Nil

4. *Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.*

Total Outbreaks Nil Total Cases Nil

5. †*Single Cases.*

Agent identified Salmonella Typhi-murium Total 1
No particular food isolated.

6.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

307 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year (see Tables of Notifiable Diseases) on pages 18/20.

Diphtheria Immunization.

Immunization against Diphtheria is carried out by the County Council at each session of the Infant Welfare Centre, Sefton Avenue, Mondays and Wednesday. 556 cases were completed during the year. Immunization is also carried out in the schools in the district regularly.

Immunization against Diphtheria commenced on 17th May, 1935; during this period 7,607 cases have been immunized in the district.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is available at every session of the child welfare clinic at Sefton Avenue; this work is also carried out by the General Practitioners under the National Health Service. There were 256 Primary

Vaccinations performed, 251 of which were successful.

Scarlet Fever.

There were twenty-five cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, a decrease of five on last year; there were no deaths from this disease, which continues to be a mild disease.

Malaria.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Typhoid Fever (Including Para-Typhoid).

There were three cases of Para-Typhoid fever during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases added to the local Register during 1955 33, 31 Respiratory and 2 non Respiratory.

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis employees in the Milk Trade or to Section 172 Public Health Act, 1936, for removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Measles.

Measles show a decrease during the year 147 cases being notified as against 226 in 1954; there were no deaths due to Measles, but it still continues to be one of the serious infectious diseases of childhood.

Whooping Cough.

92 Cases were notified during the year, as against 57 in 1954. There were no deaths due to this disease, but it continues to be one of the serious infectious diseases of childhood.

Scabies.

There were no cases dealt with during the year.

General.

There have been no reports made under Article 17(7) Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, which refers to Plague, Cholera, Smallpox or any serious outbreak of disease in the district. It has not been necessary to close the schools during the year because of infectious disease.

Disinfection.

There were 26 houses disinfected during the year after Infectious Disease, and sickness including Tuberculosis. Several articles were disinfected at the Council's Disinfector (a Washington Lyons Type) situated in the Council's yard, Field Lane.

There is no arrangement for bathing verminous persons, etc.

Disinfestation has been carried out at 207 houses.

Notifiable Diseases, 1955.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified and number of deaths from these diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Cases Notified.											Total Deaths.
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.										
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over	ages not known	
Smallpox...	(a) Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	(b) ...
Scarlet Fever	25	...	...	5	16	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or typhoid Fever, (excluding paratyphoid	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever ...	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	..
Measles(excluding rubella)	147	9	46	50	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	92	9	21	27	33	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Acute pneumonia primary and influenzal	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis, Paralytic	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-paralytic ...	Nil	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute encephalitis, Infective	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post infectious ...	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	4	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Malaria— Contracted in this C'try	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Contracted Abroad ...	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...
Tuberculosis Respiratory	31	...	...	...	...	1	10	6	12	2	...	9
Meninges and C.N.S.	—											
Other	2	...	...	.	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease notifiable in district, *e.g.* — Chicken Pox	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease (specify)	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	307	19	69	83	94	7	13	7	13	2	Nil	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

307 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1955 including Tuberculosis.

	Cases Notified									
	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	25	30	24	9	19	37	28	47	38	23
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2	16	9
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid fever	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	Nil	...	...	1	...
Measles (excluding rubella) ...	147	226	444	175	379	421	210	254	174	199
Whooping cough	92	57	174	17	134	140	98	10	91	71
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	Nil	2	5	5	8	10	2	4	2	7
Puerperal pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	1	...	...	2	...	...
Meningococcal infection	1	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis—										
Paralytic	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	2	...	2	...
Non-paralytic	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...	...
Acute encephalitis—										
Infective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...	...
Post-infectious	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	4	Nil	16	Nil	3	Nil	4	3	1	2
Opthalmia neonatorum	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	2	1	Nil	2	1	1	1	4	2
Malaria—										
Contracted in England and Wales	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	Nil	...	...	1	...	1
Abroad	Nil	...	Nil	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food poisoning	1	1	1	1	Nil	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis—										
Respiratory	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meninges and C.N.S.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.—										
Any other diseases (specify)*										
*Cerebro-spinal fever	...		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	3	1	...
Anthrax	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	...	...	...
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	...	2	2	...
Canicol Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	307	320	667	213	554	612	349	329	332	316

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality During 1955 (Local Register).

AGE PERIODS.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	7	9	...	1	2	1	...	...
45	12	1	...	...	6	...	...	...
65 and over	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Age not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	25	12	Nil	2	9	1	Nil	Nil

Total number of cases added to the local Register during 1955 was 33. 31 Respiratory and 2 Non-Respiratory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955 (Local Register).

Years	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1955	25	12	Nil	2	9	1	Nil	Nil
1954	22	33	2	2	6	3	Nil	Nil
1953	32	13	1	1	5	3	...	...
1952	19	24	1	1	9	3	1	...
1951	14	15	...	2	5	5	...	...
1950 ...	21	24	5	3	8	9	...	...
1949 ...	14	27	3	2	3	7	...	...

There were no cases of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The whole of this work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council at Sefton Avenue, Litherland.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

This work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council; there were no cases notified during the year.

The Urban District Council of Litherland.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector
1955

To The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. *August* 1956.

Ladies/Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-fifth Annual Report of the work executed during 1955, together with the particulars of the work done and the improvement effected thereby.

Housing—The Slum Clearance programme is progressing satisfactorily, the ten year programme has been cut down to five years, detailed surveys of the older property are continuing, some of which have been presented to the Council, the tenants have been rehoused and the property demolished.

Three cottages in the extended area have been converted from pail closets to the water carriage system, and one privy has been converted to pail closet.

Complaints were received during the year from neighbours of an elderly lady who was the owner-occupier of the house, living alone and said to be filthy, after repeated visits to the house entrance was obtained.

The house was found to be extremely dirty, also a danger to life. No relatives of the old lady could be found.

The Duly Authorised Officer was approached and arrangements were made for the old lady to go into Ormskirk Hospital whilst the house was cleansed.

The keys of the house were handed over to a friend of the old lady and permission was given to remove the accumulation of rubbish and cleanse the premises and this was accomplished with the assistance of the Public Health Department and the old lady returned to her home.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT, NOTICES SERVED, Etc.

During the year 4,563 inspections and re-inspections were made in reference to complaints and housing.

It was necessary in numerous instances, however, to interview and write to the persons concerned, drawing their attention to notices which had not received prompt attention.

There were 935 Informal Notices and letters, etc., referring to nuisances and general dilapidations served, and in due course complied with.

Three Abatement Notices were served during the year, and complied with.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

At the request of the Housing Department a total of 364 houses were inspected during the year, 246 Council houses and 118 privately owned houses, to ascertain if they were clean and free from vermin before removal of the occupants to Council houses, or exchanges in Council houses or to privately owned houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, SLUM CLEARANCE

Twenty houses were demolished during the year and eighty four persons were rehoused. Two houses were closed and ten persons rehoused. The whole of Phelps Street and part of Irving Street houses, which have been a source of nuisance for a considerable time, have now be demolished.

SCHOOLS.—W.C. accommodation and water supply has been inspected during the year.

INSPECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.—The food exposed for sale in the district has been inspected from time to time. Meat shops and food preparing places are inspected periodically.

Handling of unwrapped food is still prevalent despite advice and propaganda.

A total of 3 ton 12 cwts. 1 qr. 7 lbs. of food was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. There are no slaughter houses in the district.

LITHERLAND HYGIENIC FOOD GUILD.—The above Guild was formed in January, 1950.

Membership consists of Food Traders, Members of the Ratepayers' and Tenants' Association, Townswomen's Guild and other Organisations in the district. Talks on Hygiene have been given during the year. Posters received from the Ministry have been exhibited in Canteens and Food premises.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are eight retail distributors of milk in the district and three with premises outside the district.

There is one dairy which has a pasteurization plant and extensions are pending. There are no cows kept in the district, and there are 37 shops in the district selling bottled milk and on the whole a fairly high standard of cleanliness is obtained, 56 visits were made during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-54

No. of distributors registered by the Local Authority.

(a)	Dairies in the district	1
(b)	Shops in the district selling milk	37
(c)	Premises outside the district	3

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54

Dealers Licences including Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin Tested Milk	8

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Retail distributors	(a) "Pasteurized"	11
	(b) "Sterilized"	33

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES.

MILK SAMPLES—Eleven samples were submitted for examination. The Bacteriologist report shows that all samples were satisfactory to the "Methylene Blue Test" the "Phosphatase Test" and to the Turbidity test.

DRIED MILK—Seven samples of dried milk sent for Bacteriological Examination, all samples were free from "Pathogenic Organisms.'

ICE CREAM SAMPLES—Nine samples of ice cream were sent for "Bacteriological Examination".

The results of the samples are as follows:—

Provisional Grade	1	—	4	samples
,, ,,	2	—	4	,,
,, ,,	3	—	1	,,

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES—Twelve samples of milk were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1950; all samples were reported "Genuine," with the exception of the following:—

Two Samples—Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% and 1.0% of extraneous water, the vendor was cautioned and further samples were obtained as requested.

FISH FRYING SHOPS AND WET FISH SHOPS.—Twenty-eight visits were paid to fish frying shops and wet fish shops, which were maintained in a generally satisfactory condition.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Visits to factories have been made where black smoke and grit have been excessive; interviews between managers, engineers and stokers have taken place and advice given. Complaints of obnoxious fumes from a factory received attention. One factory is waiting for steelwork to improve the existing plant and one factory has placed an order for a new Bennis Chain Grate Stoker. The larger industries find employment for approximately 3,273 persons.

REFUSE COLLECTION.—This work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Department; three gangs, with three vehicles are used, a much improved service has been given to the new extended area.

The fleet comprises two Paxits and one Low Loader. Gullies are emptied by a mechanically operated gully-emptier, also by hand.

Two hundred and fifty eight new refuse bins were provided during the year, exclusive of Council property.

DISINFESTATION—Two hundred and seven houses were disinfested during the year by means of spraying D.D.T. in Zaldecide and sulphur candles, with success. The disinfestations included bugs, (ten from Council houses and twenty from other houses) cockroaches, fleas, bees, ants and earwigs.

One of the tanneries was infested with small flies which gained access to houses and shops in the area, treatment with IZAL sprayed was satisfactory.

Clothing and bedding were taken to the Council's Steam Disinfector.

Three dead dogs and four dead cats were removed during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.—

This work has been carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries direction.

PROPERTIES INSPECTED	484
Local Authority	26
Private Dwellings	346
Business Premises	109
Agricultural Premises	3
INFESTED PROPERTIES TREATED	208
Local Authority	12
Private Dwellings	156
Business Premises	38
Agricultural Premises	2

Infestations Notified	*Private Dwellings*	*Business Premises*	*Local Authority Property*	*Agricult'l Property*
Infestations Notified 148	108	34	44	2
Found on Inspection 60	50	2	8	—
TOTAL 208	158	36	12	2

SEWERS.—Two sewer treatments, including test-baiting, were carried out during the year (i.e.) March and September, in accordance with the Ministry's instructions. An Inspector of the Ministry visited the district whilst treatment was in progress, and satisfied himself that the work was carried out as directed by the Ministry, thus enabling the Local Authority to receive assistance. A reduction in infestations has been recorded, only one small section of the old system was found to be infested, and satisfactory results have been recorded.

A summary of treatments, and destruction of rodents, is as follows:—

	Treatments.		*Destruction (approx.)*	
	Rats.	*Mice.*	*Rats.*	*Mice.*
Private Dwellings ...	34	122	72	719
Business Premises ...	10	28	51	543
Agricultural Premises ...	2	—	28	—
Council Property including Allotments & Building Sites	7	5	44	25
Sewers ...	2	—	32	—
Totals ...	55	155	227	1,287

Council Property receiving treatment included the Town Hall, Yards and Buildings, Allotments and Building Sites. All infestations were of a minor degree.

WARFARIN.—All surface infestations were treated with Warfarin successfully, and required only one treatment.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES.—A survey and inspection of poultry runs on the Council Estates was carried out during the year, no rodent infestations were found. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.—There is no recognised camping site in the district, and action was necessary during the year to secure the removal of caravans, in the new extended area.

CARAVANS.—attached to Fair Grounds were supervised during their stay in the district; pail closets and refuse collection were satisfactorily dealt with by the Local Authority.

SUPERVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Thirty-five visits were paid to houses where Infectious Diseases had occurred and the necessary enquiries made into each case, also a sanitary survey was made of the premises, notices served where necessary for various defects, and work was carried out, and 11 re-visits were paid to ensure that the work was carried out. The schools have been thoroughly disinfected during the year. The head teachers have been notified regarding children attending the schools where infectious disease had occurred, also after disinfection.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1956 for the Urban District of Litherland in the County of Lancaster.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	20	52	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	50	128	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	8	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		74	188	Nil	Nil	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (*a*) insufficient	9						9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	11	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes ...	11			Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	12	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
TOTAL	60	35	35	Nil	Nil	Nil	60

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work		M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
			No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	N'tices served	Prosecutions	
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel	Making, etc.	13	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	13
	Cleaning and washing ...	14							14
TOTAL		70	4	...	...	...	...	...	70

SALVAGE.

WASTE FOOD.—During the year 3 tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs., of food was collected and disposed of to pig dealers.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT.

Number of inspections and re-inspections (complaints and housing)	4563
Number of visits and re-visits to factories	188
Number of visits to bakehouses	16
Number of visits to dairies and milkshops, etc.	56
Number of informal notices served and letters, etc.	935
Number of visits to offensive trades	8

Samples of dried milk submitted for bacteriological examination	7
Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination ...	11
Samples of ice cream submitted for bacteriological examination	9
Samples of milk taken under Food and Drugs Act	12
Cases of infectious disease visited and reported upon ...	35
Number of houses disinfected	26
Number of verminous houses disinfested for bugs	30
Number of verminous houses disinfested for other insects etc. ...	177
Number of visits to fish frying shops and wet fish shops ...	24
Number of visits to butchers' shops, food preparing places, ice cream premises and food hawkers, etc.	360
Number of visits to schools	16
Number of visits to Gispies Vans and Caravans	72
Number of visits to stable premises and garages	21
Rent Books inspected	35
Number of visits to Pet Shops	6

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Drains tested, repaired or renewed	79
Defective w.c. cisterns, pans, traps, water supply, etc. ...	132
Staircases repaired	5
Defective water supply to houses, etc., new taps, burst pipes, etc.	92
Defective floors in dwelling houses, etc.	44
Offensive accumulations	16
New ashbins provided	258
Insanitary yard surfaces	19
Walls and chimneys pointed and repaired	148
Defective eaves, gutters, R.W. pipes, etc.	87
New back boilers, storage cisterns and cylinders provided or repaired	24
Defective skirting and drainer boards repaired	8
Defective plasterwork and limewashing, etc.	81
Repairs to window sashes and frames, and lighting and ventilation improved	88
Leaky roofs (dwelling houses, etc).	178
New doors and repairs to doors	80
Fireplaces repaired or provided	33
New sinks or other sanitary fittings	39
Animals and Fowls kept to be a nuisance	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Want of cleanliness...	3
Ineffective drainage of floors	4
Defective sanitary conveniences and insufficient	11
Other defects (burst pipes, walls, etc.)	12
Inadequate ventilation	5

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the staff for their continued support during the year.

I am, Ladies/Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HARRISON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector